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inconstancy to the Monroe Doctrine in its extra-American actions. As originally enunciated, the Doctrine was intended to contrast European and American conditions, therefore the entry into Asian politics is a departure into a region not originally considered, and hence one from which we did not, even by implication, exclude ourselves. "The coast of Asia has a set of primary interests of its own." Our actions in European affairs are still accompanied by a determination not to interfere with the internal policies of the nations of that continent. Nevertheless, the author holds the Spanish War was decidedly "a parting of the ways," an event the importance of which not only in international affairs but in our own constitutional history, we can yet but dimly estimate.

The chapters on foreign policy are supplemented by brief discussions of the elections of 1900 and 1904, and of present economic tendencies. A short concluding chapter presents the chief sources of material.

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**Lindsay, Thomas M.** *A History of the Reformation.* Two volumes. Pp. xxxiii, 1159. Price, \$2.50.. New York: Chas. Scribner's Sons, 1907.

Dr. Lindsay has in these two volumes given us the best history of the Reformation to be found in English. The product of many years of study, it is written with a grasp of the subject, a vigor of movement, and a clearness of style that is not often found in such works. In fact, it is unusually readable. There is much generalization, but it is made with a virility that holds the attention, while there is everywhere the personal interest whether it be of portraiture or in dramatic portrayal of events. The sketches of "Bloody Mary" (II, 333), of von Hutton (I, 78), and of Erasmus (I, 177), of Charles V and Luther at the Diet of Worms, and of Charles V and the protesting princes at the Diet of Worms are not easily forgotten.

Without giving the space to environment that Ranke, Jannsson and Bezold have, the first 188 pages are devoted to the setting of the movement. The papacy, with its temporal and spiritual claims, is first considered, and then the political situation. Here stress is laid upon the fact that "During the period of the Reformation a small portion of the world belonged to Christendom, and of that only a part was affected either really or nominally by the movement. The Christians belonging to the Greek Church were entirely outside its influence. . . . It was not until the heroic defence of Vienna, in 1529, that the victorious advance of the Moslems was stayed." The chapter on social conditions is especially valuable for the concrete picture of the fifteenth and early sixteenth century German town on the one hand and of the daily life of the peasant on the other, as well as the great discontent and restlessness resulting from class distinctions. The chapters on the Renaissance and Humanism emphasize that "What was once confined to a favored few became common property." "The coming revolution in religion was already proclaiming that all human life, even the most commonplace, could be sacred; and contemporary art discovered the picturesque

in the ordinary life of the people—in the castles of the nobles, in the markets of the cities, and in the villages of the peasants." It is, however, in the "Family and Popular Religious Life in the Decades before the Reformation" that Dr. Lindsay finds the keynote of his two volumes. "The great Reformation had its roots in the simple evangelical piety which had never entirely disappeared in the medieval Church."

Greater emphasis is laid upon the life and work of Luther than on that of the other reformers, though William of Orange, Calvin, the Huguenots, and even Cranmer are most sympathetically treated. Indeed, whether one agrees with it or not a better plea has rarely been made for the value of the individual in history than this by Dr. Lindsay. "History knows nothing of revivals of moral living apart from some new religious impulse. The motive power needed has always come through leaders who have had communion with the unseen. . . . The times needed a prophet . . . one who had himself lived that popular religious life with all the thoroughness of a strong, earnest nature . . . who knew, by his own personal experience, that the living God was accessible to every Christian. . . . He became a leader of men because his joyous faith made him a hero by delivering him from all fear of Church or Clergy. . . . Men could see what faith was when they looked at Luther."

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**Meyer, H. R.** *Public Ownership and the Telephone in Great Britain.* Pp. 386. Price, \$1.50. New York: The Macmillan Company, 1907.

This book, against public ownership like its predecessors by the same author, contains a considerable quantity of useful information, backed up in the footnotes by exact references to official and parliamentary reports, but it will produce on most readers the impression of being too one-sided to be considered a final treatment of the subject.

Likewise, in the study of the half dozen municipal telephone systems, which were in most cases bought out by the postoffice or the National Telephone Company in 1906, scarcely a reference is made to the rates in force by the private company in those cities prior to the beginning of municipal competition. In reading between the lines, however, it would appear that the municipalities gave an unlimited rate for exclusive service at about half the rates that the companies had been charging, and that when face to face with such competition, the National Telephone Company introduced new and very low rates for measured service. The resulting social and business advantages to the people from these low rates are ignored by our author, who seems to think the whole question is settled by the willingness of the cities ultimately to sell to the postoffice or the company, and by the fact that in the sale three or four of the half dozen cities did not recover quite all of their investment, including their original heavy parliamentary expenses.

With regard even to these last two points it should be asserted that most of the cities following the lead of Glasgow did not wish to sell out,